

REGARDING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, three years ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian was democratically elected president of the Republic of China on Taiwan. His election showed the world that democracy was alive and well and could easily thrive in a Chinese society like Taiwan.

During the last three years, President Chen has continued his democratization program for Taiwan, which today has free elections at every level, a totally free press and a strong record on human rights. Taiwan continues to set an excellent example for other nations to follow.

Moreover, President Chen has on many occasions stressed that Taiwan and China must work together to discuss issues of mutual interest. President Chen has asked the Chinese mainland authorities to respect human rights and to accept the political reality that the two sides of the Strait are ruled separately by equal political entities. Any progress toward improved cross-strait relations must ensure protection of the interests of the 23 million people living in the Republic of China on Taiwan.

As a first step toward resumption of cross-strait dialogue, China should remove its military forces along Taiwan's coast. China has deployed 350 short-range missiles aimed at Taiwan and is adding 50 missiles a year. Instead of threatening with military might, I hope the two sides will work to resolve disputes and differences peacefully.

As the people of Taiwan prepare to celebrate their president's third anniversary in office, I also stress my support for the granting to Taiwan of observer status at the World Health Assembly this May. As the outbreak of SARS threatens Asia and the world, Taiwan must be included in all World Health Organization activities. Secretary of State Colin Powell recently said, "infectious disease knows no borders and requires an effective and coordinated response at local, national and international levels." It is now time for Taiwan to be included in the global campaign for the protection of public health.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these important goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

IN HONOR OF TINA BURGESS-COAN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Tina Burgess-Coan, who died peacefully on May 12, 2003. Beloved wife of the late Judge George "Papito George" Coan and devoted mother of William and Robert Burgess, she was a friend to so many and we were blessed to have her with us. Thank you, William and Robert, for sharing your wonderful mother with us.

Tina Burgess-Coan, affectionately known as "Mama Tina," was born in Colombia, South America. In Colombia, she studied with the Carmelite Sisters and acquired the spiritual foundation for a life of charity and giving. Her relationship with the Carmelite Sisters continued to grow and guide her life of social and political activism.

On her way to San Francisco she spent time in Hollywood where she perfected her glamorous style, but we are so fortunate that she chose our city of San Francisco to be her home.

Mama Tina came into my life during my first term in Congress. Through the years, she continued to extend her loving support and generosity to my family and friends. She was actively involved throughout the San Francisco community, serving numerous neighborhood groups and individuals. Always there when she was needed, she gave abundantly of her time, her wisdom, and her delicious home-cooked meals.

Words cannot express my appreciation for Mama Tina's many years of love, generosity, and friendship to my family and the San Francisco community. Wherever she went, she made everyone feel a part of a large, caring family. She was one of a kind.

We will miss Mama Tina terribly but are grateful for every day we had with her.

JUSTIN CAGE—INDIANA MR. BASKETBALL

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Justin Cage, Indiana Mr. Basketball 2003, from Indianapolis, IN.

A senior at Pike High School, Justin Cage has already had a phenomenal basketball career as a team member of the Pike Red Devils Boys Basketball team. Not only has he been named Indiana Mr. Basketball 2003, he also led his team to win the Indiana State Boys Basketball Championship (Class 4A). The Pike Red Devils finished the season with a perfect record of 29-0.

As a four year starter for Pike High School, Justin also contributed to winning the state title in 2001 and finished runner up for 2002.

Justin finished the season averaging 13.4 points and a team high of 7.0 rebounds.

He will continue his basketball career at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH, where Justin plans to major in Business Administration.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in saluting this extraordinary young man in his myriad achievements.

A TRIBUTE TO MINNIE IVERSON WOOD, STILL TEACHING MUSIC ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to join the people of Loma Linda, California, in singing the praises of Min-

nie Iverson Wood, who has been teaching music and directing choirs for more than 75 years—and plans to continue teaching students after her 95th birthday on May 26th.

This remarkable teacher and musician got her start in music at Pine Tree Academy in her native Maine, and continued her education in voice and foreign languages at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland and Catholic University of America. She took lessons in voice, choir conducting and piano in the United States, Europe and the Far East.

With her husband, Dr. Wilton Wood, Mrs. Wood went to China, where she taught at Far Eastern Academy in Shanghai and Hong Kong. She has taught music and conducted choirs at the Baltic Union Seminary in Riga, Latvia; the Malayan Seminary in Singapore; and the Philippine Union College. Back in the United States, she taught at Columbia Union College for 10 years and at Andrews University in Michigan for 16 years.

Mrs. Wood has conducted choirs around the world, and organized major musical events such as Handel's Messiah and Brahms' Requiem. She personally sang for President Truman, and her choirs performed for Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon. Her choral groups also sang a yearly memorial service at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Virginia.

Many of Mrs. Wood's musical groups have performed live on radio programs, including an a cappella choral group from Columbia Union College that gave weekly Sunday performances. She also organized the choir music for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church General Conference Session in Cleveland in 1958.

In addition to her long career as a music teacher, Mrs. Wood was a grade school teacher for 11 years. Her use of phonics helped her first grade class to be able to read at least one grade level above average by the end of each school year. The method was so successful she was asked to train other teachers in its use.

Mr. Speaker, as she reaches her 95th year, Minnie Iverson Woods continues to teach and mentor several dozen private students, and to be active on the Sabbath School Music Committee. Her students from 75 years of teaching will gather this week in a special Vespers concert to honor this wonderful teacher. Please join me in thanking her for a lifetime of making a joyful noise, and wishing her well in the years to come.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY FOR PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, The Republic of China on Taiwan will be celebrating their President's third anniversary in office this May. I join Taiwan's friends in extending my congratulations to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian.

During the last 3 years, Taiwan's president has strengthened relations with the United States. Taiwan has given us full support in our war against global terrorism and our war with Iraq and offered humanitarian assistance to post-war Iraq. Taiwan is our friend and we appreciate Taiwan's friendship.